

REMARKS

Claims 41-44 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 41-44 are amended. The amendments to the claims are supported in the original specification at, for example, paragraphs [0148] - [0149]. Thus, no new matter is added by the above amendments.

Applicants thank Examiner Mruk for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the May 18, 2007 interview. Applicants' substance of the interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

Claims 41-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,667,795 (Shigemura). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Shigemura does not disclose or suggest an arrangement having the combinations of features recited in any of Applicants' independent claims 41-44. Accordingly, all pending claims of this application are patentable over Shigemura. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Each of Applicants' independent claims recites a plurality of ejection heads, each ejection head having a plurality of nozzles for ejecting a filter material (or a functional layer as recited in claim 44), wherein at least one of the ejection heads comprises a plurality of first nozzles, a plurality of second nozzles and a plurality of third nozzles, those first, second and third nozzles ejecting three different types of material. Furthermore, each of independent claims 41-44 recites that the plurality of first, second and third nozzles are arranged in a same line. Shigemura does not disclose or suggest such an arrangement of features.

During the interview, the Examiner referenced Fig. 16 of Shigemura et al., asserting that "element 606 in Fig. 16 of Shigemura is structurally equivalent to element 22A in Fig. 19 of the instant application." See the Interview Summary dated May 18, 2007. However, Fig. 16 of Shigemura does not disclose an ejection head in which a plurality of first, second and third nozzles that eject different materials are arranged in a same line. The head in

Fig. 16 of Shigemura is comprised of three separate lines each of which ejects one type of ink. Line 120a ejects red ink; line 121a ejects green ink; and line 122a ejects blue ink. Even if the Patent Office attempts to read Applicants' claimed ejection head on the entire unit 606 in Shigemura Fig. 16, there is no same line of nozzles having a plurality of first nozzles ejecting a first type of material, a plurality of second nozzles ejecting a second type of material and a plurality of third nozzles ejecting a third type of material. Accordingly, Shigemura does not disclose or suggest all features of Applicants' independent claims.

Accordingly, claims 41-44 are patentable over Shigemura. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Robert M. Jackson
Registration No. 46,796

JAO:RMJ/lmf

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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